



**TOWN OF WESTFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

TOWN HALL
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Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 8:15 A.M.
Town Hall, Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Attending: Tom Barry, Ron Caterino, Eli Demetri, Jeff Hillman, Chris Kluchman, Bill Nussbum, Jodi Ross, Andrew Stern, Tom West.

The meeting was called to order by at 8:15 A.M.

Administrative Items:

The minutes of the November 19, 2015 were approved by a unanimous vote.

Bill Nussbum will Chair the EDC meeting in January, and March, and Ron Caterino will Chair the February meeting.

Presentation by Jeffrey Brem on Real Estate development proposal

18 homes proposed off Graniteville Road, which include 2 homes on donated land for Habitat for Humanity, who requested an EDC letter of support. Discussion led to a decision that at this time, it would not be appropriate for the committee to give an opinion on the project.

12 North Main Street Task Force

Eli Demetri reported that the second round of solicited proposals for the stabilization of the site structure resulted in a \$70,000 award to secure the building as well as wrapping of the smokestack on the site. The process should be completed by the end of January, 2016.

EDSAT Follow-up

Ron Caterino discussed the article presented in the Lowell Sun relative to Westford being the community at the pinnacle of the 78 cities and towns that have been assessed to this point. It was also stated that the article is on the Westford Website under the EDC section.

Business Smart Workshop

Tom Barry stated that the EDC would give a 20 minute presentation at the event.

2016 EDC Work Plan

The work plan was reviewed with the committee. Suggestions were made to combine various sections, and Jodi Ross discussed the possible use of a Town of Westford App, to enhance exposure through social media.

Courier /Blaisdell site discussion

Tom Barry and Bill Nussbum discussed contact with a possible interested party for the site, and potential uses for the property, including some interest by the Recreation Department.

Town of Westford marketing presentation

No action until January meeting

Cross Town Connect Update

The expansion of commuter rail service to the Littleton area is being actively supported by the CTC. The budget for 2016 includes an increase of 10% for member communities. Red Hat and Juniper will remain at a level of one round trip per day.

New Business

Chris Kluchman reported that 25,000 square feet, out of the 160,000 square feet of the former IBM site has been leased, and that a medical marijuana site dispensary has been discussed with the Town.

Respectfully Submitted
William Nussbum
Economic Development Committee
Acting Chair